
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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Spratt Named Key Leader in Congress

WASHINGTON – Congressional Quarterly, a 57 year-old publishing company regarded for its excellence in covering the political landscape in Washington, has named U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) among 28 key leaders in Congress.

“The CQ staff has identified 28 members of the House and Senate who – for a variety of institutional, personal and circumstantial reasons – have assumed a new mantle of authority and influence in Congress. In different ways and styles, they have caught their colleagues’ attention and so deserve ours,” *CQ Weekly*, the company’s flagship news magazine, stated in its first issue of the new year.

Spratt is the Ranking Member on the House Budget Committee and a senior member on the House Armed Services Committee. He was cited by Congressional Quarterly for his expertise on budget and defense matters – and his moderate views that give him the unique ability to work effectively with members from both parties.

“Having proven himself to be an influential member of the House minority on defense and budget issues, John Spratt is positioned at the crossroads of many of the biggest decisions facing the War Congress,” said the magazine.

“His grasp of detail in both areas and his moderate views have elevated his leverage. Republicans view Spratt as one of the Democrats with whom they can work at times. He remains a bellwether vote for the block of Democratic moderates who can make the difference on crucial votes in a closely divided Congress. And at key moments on fiscal and military policy debates, he has prevented his party from swerving far left of center,” *CQ Weekly* stated.

The magazine cited several specific examples of Spratt’s expertise and moderation:

- “He cosponsored the law, enacted in 1999, calling for deployment of a missile defense system ‘as soon as is technologically feasible.’”
- “He was a lead negotiator and salesman for the 1997 budget-balancing deal that President Bill Clinton had struck with the congressional leadership.”
- “Spratt cosponsored the 1996 law requiring that most new TV sets come with a ‘v-chip’ to

allow parents to block objectional programming.”

- A leading advocate of the textile industry, Spratt “voted against granting China permanent normal trade status, and in December he voted against reviving ‘fast-track’ procedures for congressional consideration of trade agreements.”

In selecting the 28 lawmakers, Congressional Quarterly said it “harbors no political agenda.” The publisher said it made its assessments of the senators and representatives “by watching them in action, by conducting interviews with them, and by reporting on their actions as legislators. We have no stake in partisan debates or outcomes. Our interest is in presenting as clear, objective and complete a picture as possible of how individual members choose to represent the people who elected them.”

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